



West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 21, 2013; 1300 CST

- 20 April 2013: 24-hour operations included mobile air monitoring for volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected.
- EPA OSCs, Region 6 Risk Assessors, and EPA contractors finalized a QASP for assessment of the areas potentially affected by pesticides/herbicides involved in the West Fertilizer, Inc. explosion.
- At 1000 on 20 April 2013, the County began resident re-entry activities for residents located in the secondary exclusion zone approximately outside the ½ mile radius of the facility. EPA conducted mobile air monitoring throughout the area. No readings were detected above background.
- From 2040-2130 on 20 April 2013, TCEQ and Union Pacific railroad personnel transferred the remaining anhydrous ammonia from on-site tanks into tanker trucks for removal off-site as product. EPA conducted stationary air monitoring downwind of the transfer operations and coordinated with TCEQ throughout the operations.
- Union Pacific is working to repair a damaged section of track near West Fertilizer facility.
- 21 April 2013: ATF continues its investigation at the West Fertilizer facility. TCEQ representatives will assist ATF agents and contractors during debris assessment and excavation activities.
- EPA OSCs continue to coordinate with the City of West and McLennan County officials on written property access. Verbal access to conduct soil sampling within the City and County right-of-ways and West Independent School District property was granted on 20 April.
- 21 April 2013: EPA OSCS attended site briefings and law enforcement/operational briefings, conducted a meeting with CSB, TCEQ, and OSHA, and coordinated with ATF, CSB, TCEQ, OSHA, DOT, the Office of the Texas State Chemist, and EPA CID on current and future site operations.
- 21 April 2013: EPA completed collecting a total of 9 pesticide/herbicide soil samples (includes 2 background samples). EPA expects to receive preliminary sampling results by COB Thursday, April 25, 2013.
- 4-EPA OSCs, 1 EPA PIO, and 6 START contractors conducted 24-hour site operations, spaced over two shifts. The Regional MCP is on-site.
- One night shift EPA OSC plans to demobe the evening of 21 April.
- The MCP will be relocated to the West High School parking lot on April 21, 2013.
- EPA will attend a meeting for all Federal Agencies as requested by FEMA on Monday, April 22.